

# ATTACHMENTS

## PART 3: INITIAL BASELINE DATA FOR EDUCATION REFORM ASSURANCES

### **Achieving Equity in Teacher Distribution**

Massachusetts welcomes the use of the 2007-08 Consolidated State Performance Report as initial baseline data in this area. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education moved from an aggregate data collection and began collecting individual educator data through the Education Personnel Information Management System in the 2007-08 school year. It is our position that our highly qualified teacher data should be examined from this point forward to ensure the highest level of accuracy.

### **Compliance with NCLB Requirements for Standards and Assessments**

Massachusetts received *Full Approval* from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in February of 2007 for its compliance with reading and mathematics standards and assessments requirements (grades 3-10) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Massachusetts submitted evidence for its compliance with NCLB science standards and assessment requirements in April 2008. In response, the Department received two contradictory communications from the USDE: one letter (dated January 8, 2009) granting *Full Approval* for compliance with the NCLB requirements for science standards and assessments, and a second letter (dated January 16, 2009) which stated that our science assessments are *Not Yet Fully Compliant*.

It is the position of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that its science standards and assessments are compliant with the requirements under NCLB and that the system warrants *Full Approval*. The Department plans to appeal the status of *Not Yet Fully Compliant* which was communicated on January 16, 2009 and will request that the USDE grant a second review of the evidence submitted for its science standards and assessment system.

## PART 4, SECTION C: MAINTENANCE-OF-EFFORT BASELINE DATA

### ***3(a). Identify and describe the data sources used in determining the levels of State support for elementary and secondary education.***

The three fundamental components of Massachusetts's K-12 state education finance formula (called "Chapter 70") are: (1) a "foundation budget," which is calculated for each district based on the number and type of students across several expenditure categories -- this part of the formula calculates the minimum amount a school district must spend -- using a combination of state and local dollars -- to provide an adequate education; (2) a local contribution, which is determined based on each municipality's income and property wealth; and (3) state aid, which at a minimum is meant to provide the difference between the foundation budget for a given district and the local contribution. The foundation budget increases each year with inflation and other enrollment factors, which is why the proposed level funding for fiscal year 2010 leaves some districts below their foundation level. Based on the Governor's budget proposal, Massachusetts

intends to use \$168 million of State Fiscal Stabilization Funds to ensure that every district is at its foundation level.

The Governor's FY10 budget proposal and historic data about Chapter 70 spending levels for FY06, FY07, FY08, FY09 are found online at the following link --

<http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy10h1/brec10/act/ho70610008.htm>

The reductions to FY09 Chapter 70 funding are described here --

[http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter\\_09\\_reduction.html](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter_09_reduction.html)

and also here --

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3pressrelease&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Agov3&b=pressrelease&f=090507\\_legislation\\_budge\\_gap&csid=Agov3](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3pressrelease&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Agov3&b=pressrelease&f=090507_legislation_budge_gap&csid=Agov3)

Budget line item language from the Governor's FY10 budget proposal level funding the FY10 Chapter 70 distribution is found here --

<http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy10h1/brec10/act/h70610008.htm>

The Outside Section language, known as Section Three, by which that level funded amount will be distributed is online at this location --

<http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy10h1/os10/h3.htm>

The distribution necessary to determine the FY10 level of support for districts is attached, and can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website on their ARRA page listed as State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Calculations --

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/arra/>

Please note that the final amount needed to fund the gap in FY10 will change with final enactment of the budget, as the formula we use can only be run using the final non-education local aid numbers. Therefore, changes to non-education local aid numbers trigger automatic changes to our education funding formula. We commit to updating our application in a timely fashion when the budget is finalized. We note, though, that all FY10 budget proposals put forward so far embrace the principle of using ARRA funds to bring all districts to foundation levels of spending consistent with our state formula, and we expect that will continue.

***3(b). Identify and describe the data sources used in determining the levels of State support for public IHEs.***

The attached Excel spreadsheet lists the data used in determining the levels of State support for public IHEs in fiscal year 2006, fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009. It also lists the budget reductions that occurred in 2009, the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2010 and the proposed fiscal year 2010 budget recently adopted by the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

The prior-enacted levels of State support for public IHEs are listed in Massachusetts' annual budget, the General Appropriations Act, available online:

- For fiscal year 2006 -- <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw05/sl050045.htm>
- For fiscal year 2008 -- <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw07/sl070061.htm>
- For fiscal year 2009 -- <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw08/sl080182.htm>

These appropriations do not include funding for capital expenditures or research.

The public IHE budget reductions that occurred in fiscal year 2009 are available online at -- [http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2009/app\\_09/ga\\_09/hred1.htm](http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2009/app_09/ga_09/hred1.htm)

The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2010, which includes the proposed IHE appropriations, is available online at -- <http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy10h1/brec10/hsummary.htm>

## **PART 5, SECTION A: STATE USES OF THE EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND ~ ATTACHMENTS ~**

***2. Identify and describe each of the State's primary elementary and secondary education funding formulae that were used in determining the calculations provided above for the levels of State support for elementary and secondary education.***

The funding formula used for determining primary education funding is known as Chapter 70, as its base text is found in Chapter 70 of the Massachusetts General Laws, available online at -- <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-70-toc.htm>

A general explanation of the formula, along with a specific description of the formula as used to develop FY10 preliminary contributions, is found in a white paper located on the website of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), online at -- [http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter\\_10\\_explain.html](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter_10_explain.html)

Further links to detailed data and formula calculations for the Governor's FY10 budget proposal by school district can be found online at the DESE website -- [http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter\\_10.html](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter_10.html)

A general guide to the various forms of municipal and school district aid is found in the "Cherry Sheet Manual," so-called, published by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Assistance ("cherry sheets" are the colloquial term for the notification given to towns, cities and regional school districts of their final aid amounts from the Commonwealth). The manual is found online at the following link -- <http://www.mass.gov/Ador/docs/dls/cherry/CSManual.pdf>

***3. Identify and describe the specific State data sources that were used in determining the calculations provided above for the levels of State support for public IHEs.***

Same as 3(b) in Part 4, Section C, above.

***5. Describe the process that the State will use to determine the amount of funding that individual public IHEs will receive from the funds that the State sets aside to restore the levels of State support for these institutions.***

Each year the state adopts its annual budget, the General Appropriations Act (GAA). This document reflects the state legislature's appropriations, any vetoes made by the Governor and any overrides made by the legislature.

The State will determine the amount of funding that individual public IHEs will receive by subtracting the amounts listed for each public IHE in the fiscal year 2010 GAA from the amounts listed for each public IHE in the fiscal year 2009 GAA. Public IHEs will receive the difference between these two amounts from Massachusetts's share of the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds.